Dear Js, 4/26/73

There is point in my sending this "OMB Reorganized by Ash" story. Because people like Broder are used to drafts from private industry, they fail to note significances in these new and quite important selections, needlessly from outside the government. In fact, for these jobs government experience is a need.

Note the ages, too, not just whence these characters comes. These men can be expected to hold these jobs for 20 years or more, during which they will impress the Nixonian philosophy on everything and everyone under their influence. It is impossible to imagine the kinds of quite influence this agency can apply, inside the government and out. They have much to do with who gets how much government money and for what purposes, with the agency budgets and with the Budget submitted to the Congress. This is not a mere reorganization. It betokens a complete reordering and I think will be a major part of the foundation of The New Authoritarianism.

Sam Cohn is a favorite cousin of whom I've been able to see little. If his wife, aka Favorite Counsin (female), does not require major surgery, we'll be dining with them in a week. This will be the first year since the 40s that I will have seen him twice in a year. Most of the years between we have not seen them at all. I am the reason. Why and how may tell you something about the file clerks of repression, historically.

When I was in OSS I was asked for a recommendation by the White House. It wanted to send an elite crew to Germany (Berling had just fallen) to dismantle the cartels. I had done a rather successful series of investigations and stories on Nazi cartels. This included doing what all of the Department of Justice failed to do, what was too hot to get published anywhere (IGFraben-ESSO deal on synthetic rubber and manufactured synthetic gasoline). The White House people who asked my recommendation included those who knew me from this past.

I recommended Sam, who is a couple of years younger than I. Not because he was my cpunsin, or because we had been boys together in the heart of Philadelphia, perhaps a half mile apart. Because of his ability, his intellect. Real shapr mind, trained as a mathematician. He was then a sergeant at Wright-Patterson, doing the work of a general who did absolutely nothing. My recommendation seems to have been enough. (I don't think Truman remembered me from his war-investigating committee day, but I had taken date to him, esp. the IG-DuPont plexiglas-lucite deal) Sam's assignement to Berlin was ordered immediately, by wire, and he prepared to leave forthwith. SomethingI've never heard of in any other case them happened. Hap Arnold undertook to cancel Sam's reassignment. The White House got its back up, Truman told Arnold who was President and Commander in Chief, and Sam was despatched to berling, where he remained a sergeant.

There is a human-interest sidelight for which I digress. While he was there he father was hospitalized for a terminal abdominal cancer. My uncle lingered. The family notified Sam. His brother Joe, in Hawaii, was shipped back. Clearance for emergency leave never reached Sam. Somehow, the Red Cross tried anc could do nothing. Sam was agonizing in the rubble with a civilian friend over this whenthe friend, also co-worker, asked why the hell he didn't call Eisenhower and tell him. Sam decided to do it, returned to the office and by military phone asked for Ike. The operator connected him to Ike's quarters. Lucius Clay, then a colonel, told Sam to phone back in a half hour or so. When Sam did he was told where to go the next a.m. and to be sure to get extra copies of the orders that were bein mimeographed so he could use them as tickets. They were drafted so broadly Sam had Ike's authorization to commandeer a piggy-back ride from any general he might see. He made his own flight arrangements as he went with those orders. He had to improvise. I think he had to get to Frankfort first. Anyway, he missed thefuneral by a day or so.

~~During the period he was being investi~~ Shortly after getting his initial assignment in what was then the Bureau of the Budget he phoned me one day and suggested we have lunch that day. I met he and he showed me a questionaire he had been givem part of a security check. It included a question about details of how he knew and what he knew about listed people. As I recall now, all or almost all except one had been co-workers in the anti-Naxi cartel work. I was the exception! Sam knew about my adventures with the UnAmericans. The only way this could have been picked up was by shadowing, which is unlikely, or by checking his original WH files, whoch would have included my recommendation. Can you imagone any

of the spooks knowing me? Unlikely. The probability is that because of the nature of his Berlin assignment, the Nazi-minded spooks probably considered the work itself subwersive and any who'd make a recommendation, naturally, a congenital bearded bamb-thrower.

The same curse of having a motnher who was my father's sister plagued his brother Joe, still does on every new security check. Unlike Sam, Joe had a radical college career. He Gor Religion. The last time I saw other politically conscious relatives was at the Bas Mitzvah (confirmation) party Joe threw at the synagogue for his daughter, about 7-8 years ago. Joe is a "macher" in the "schule", teacher Sunday School, etc., as I suppose many former radicals of that era do. I guess Joe had this plague inflicted on him because his brother's security file was checked.

Because of this, over the years we have felt it better in Sam's interest (he has two kids to send to college beginning this year) to see him infrequently. It has been possible for him to reture for some time. He is the top civil servant in the government, in rating (and honors). He is general at the arm of the director when he testifies. Had been for years. We seen him most on TV. I take it this story means he has found a congenial and worhtwhile job or just has a distended gut. Maybe we'll know in a week.

We've both been circumspect, never discussing his work. Guess we'll be able to see them more now.

Such is life in the freest country in the world.